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City to Make Intersection Repairs, Traffic Upgrades

Including Demonstration Project

Intersection of Regent & Monroe Streets with Southwest Bike Path

The City is proposing to make traffic repairs & upgrades to the intersection of Monroe St, Regent St, and the Southwest Bike Path as part of a joint effort with the Mayor's Office, area alders, and the City Engineering and Traffic Engineering Divisions. A number of motor vehicle & pedestrian-bicycle repairs & upgrades are planned.

The City has been looking at various repairs & improvements to the intersection as far back as 2005, but it has held off pending further study. Now that most of the major construction has finished at the stadium hotel-- "Hotel-1501"-- the city is looking at several updates for traffic, pedestrians and bicycles. While upgrades were planned for 2007-2008 these were tabled pending further study.

Repaving & remarking the traffic lanes on the hotel side of Monroe St. is one item the City wants to do. The road surface on this leg of the intersection is rutted & full of a mix of hotel construction-related markings, which will be cleaned up as part of this project. The hotel side of Regent St also had traffic markings impacted with the hotel construction so markings will be repaired here as well.

Traffic signals at the intersection will also get a facelift. Several new signal poles will be added. Higher visibility back plates to make the overhead signals more conspicuous will be added. A new state of the art traffic signal controller (computer) will be installed to manage all the traffic & pedestrians & bikes. The new controller will be the most advanced controller in the City. The overhead traffic signals will also receive oversized street name signs.

The City is planning to make the intersection safer & friendlier for pedestrians & bicyclists. Several options have been studied since 2005 when the UW was updating the football stadium and Camp Randall area. Additional studies have been done since then as part of the Council-adopted Platinum Bicycle Committee Report initiated by the Mayor. Further options have been developed with the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin & the City's European fact finding trip. The City is also working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on research studies of the intersection. These studies entail research on the City's first bicycle specific traffic signals--there are just a handful of such signals in the country--mostly in California in cities like Davis, CA., Denver, CO & a few cities in Canada. The research is also looking at

treatments to make busy traffic intersections safer & friendlier for bicyclists, especially at major bike path junctions like Regent & Monroe Streets where the SW Bike Path & several bike routes intersect. The City wants to make these bike facilities more connected as part of new initiative for bikes called "connections." There are literally hundreds of busy traffic intersections & bicycle junction points that are in need of improvements to make them more connected & safer for all users, pedestrian, motor vehicle & bicycles alike. This intersection is a key destination with the Camp Randall Stadium and the Regent Street and Monroe Street Commercial Business Districts.

The planned repairs & upgrades for motorists, pedestrians & bicyclists are lower cost, quick fix type of repairs. If everything goes as scheduled the repairs would be done by the end of 2010. Otherwise the repairs would be done in 2011. The goal is to make as many upgrades as possible without having to go to more expensive options like reworking & undergrounding many of the major power lines & poles MG&E has intersecting & running thru this busy intersection, as well as a past plan to lower the grade of the intersection. There are several power poles that the City would like to relocate but would require major reconstruction.

While MG&E may do some work in advance of the main project, the majority of construction is planned to work around UW football games and other local events. Concentrated work is planned to start on September 27 to October 6. Work would shut down for the Monroe Street Festival on Saturday October 2nd, and for the UW games against Minnesota on October 9th and Ohio State on October 16th. Work would continue on October 18 until November 10, and work around remaining football games as needed.

During some phases of construction, it is anticipated that Regent Street between Monroe St and Little St would be closed to allow construction to take place in the most efficient manner. Traffic would be re-routed to Randall Ave and Monroe St and also to the farther out street system during this time.

This work is also being coordinated with other nearby construction projects. Projects like Campus Drive, Breese Terrace and Old University Ave, and Randall Ave near Union South, as well as Park Street and University Ave are scheduled to be completed prior to the subject Regent Monroe Streets repairs.

The City is planning a public information meeting at the City's Pedestrian-Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Commission on June 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 260 of the Madison Municipal Building, 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Meetings are also planned for the City's Board of Public Works on Wednesday, July 7, 2010 and Common Council on July 20, 2010.

Proposed plans will be posted on the City's website. Staff from City Traffic Engineering and City Engineering will be available for questions and comments.

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